

NewsRelease

MEDIA CONTACT

■ **Mike Dubois**
DEQ Boise
Regional Office
(208) 373-0550

DEQ declares air quality alert in southwestern Idaho; outdoor burning prohibited

BOISE, 2:30 p.m. — Air quality is deteriorating in southwest Idaho, prompting the director of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to issue a Stage 1 air quality alert.

The alert affects Ada, Canyon, Owyhee, Valley, Elmore, Payette, Gem, Boise, Washington, and Adams counties.

Under a Stage 1 alert, open burning is prohibited. No new fires may be ignited and, where practicable, existing fires should be extinguished.

Heavy smoke from wildfires is contributing to high levels of ozone and particulate matter (PM 2.5) across southwest Idaho.

“Sensitive” individuals, including children, the elderly, those with asthma or any other lung or heart condition and those who work, exercise, or spend extensive time outdoors, are advised to avoid prolonged outdoor exertion. Everyone else should limit outdoor activities. Anyone experiencing shortness of breath or chest discomfort should consult a physician.

In addition, DEQ is urging residents to limit driving. Carpool, use alternative transportation, work at home when possible, and combine multiple vehicle trips into one.

Air quality is expected to remain poor through the remainder of the week. DEQ will continue to monitor and evaluate PM 2.5 and ozone levels throughout the day and will issue updates as conditions warrant.

End